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Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory

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Dr. Deubler's Birthday (continued from cover)

Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory at the School.

Christine Connelly, Wayne Ferguson, Walter Goodman and Gilbert Kahn, AKC President Alfred Cheauré and AKC Vice President Dennis Sprung, Westminster K.C. President Chester Collier, and VMAS President Dr. Suzanne Smith were among the many guests who gathered on the evening of May 2 at the Black Bass Hotel in Lumberville to celebrate Josephine's 80th birthday and to wish her many happy returns. It was a grand evening, the weather was fine, the food was great, and everyone enjoyed the terrace and the beautiful view of the Delaware.

There were many tributes to Josephine, from her colleagues, her friends, and her family. The speeches were nostalgic and witty and there was a lot of laughter. Mr. Gilbert Kahn had prepared a wonderful surprise for Dr.

Deubler and the School in the form of a \$100,000 gift to the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory. Dean Kelly and his family had made a rocking chair for her, though whether it will find much use right now is debatable as Dr. Deubler is as busy as ever with her work at the School and her chairmanship of the Montgomery and Bucks County shows. Dr. Kelly also presented her with the School's Bellwether medal, honoring her for her devotion and dedication to Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine.

The dean gratefully acknowledged Mr. Kahn's generous gift and the gifts of many of Dr. Deubler's friends and colleagues. He was most pleased to report that two thirds of the funds needed to complete the \$500,000 goal for the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing laboratory had been raised as of the birthday celebration and that the laboratory could begin operations later in the year. 🐾🐾



The following have contributed or pledged to the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory:

Animal Rescue League of Philadelphia
Mr. Nigel Aubrey-Jones
Ms. Susan Barrett
Mrs. Patricia Billhardt
Mr. Carl Blaine
Ms. Helen W. Brann
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Brown
Bucks County Kennel Club
Ms. K. Carol Carlson
Mrs. Elizabeth Clark
Ms. Ruth L. Cooper
Betsy Dayrell-Hart, V.M.D.
M. Josephine Deubler, V.M.D.
Ms. Melissa Erickson
Ms. Maralyn Feige
Mr. Wayne Ferguson
Mrs. Muriel Freeman
Mr. Richard Gebhardt
Mr. Walter Goodman
Mr. Gilbert S. Kahn
Kal Kan Foods, Inc.
Mr. Kenneth Kauffman
Mrs. William L. Kendrick
Kennel Club of Philadelphia
Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Kipp
Ms. Patricia W. Laurans
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Montgomery County Kennel Club
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Mrs. Helma Weeks
Mrs. Dorothy L. Welsh
Ms. Ida Ellen Weinstock
Mr. Charles S. Wolf
Mrs. Edith Young
list incomplete at time of printing

Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory

The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine has established the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory. The laboratory is part of a service that encompasses a genetic testing and counseling program in the School's Section of Medical Genetics. It is named after the School's first female graduate, Dr. Josephine Deubler, V'38, who served on the faculty until 1987 and is still active in School affairs. The laboratory will be operational in October.

Hereditary diseases of companion animals are an important problem for breeders and owners. More than 350 inherited disorders have been identified in the dog and over 150 in the cat. The Section of Medical Genetics at the School has been in the forefront of reporting hereditary diseases in companion animals for more than 20 years. Many diseases were first discovered by Penn researchers who often also characterized the disease course, determined the mode of inheritance and developed tests to identify affected animals. Since most of the diseases are recessively inherited, tests to identify

carriers who are clinically asymptomatic but can pass on the abnormal (mutant) gene have been developed. With recent advances in molecular genetic technology several DNA-based tests which are more accurate have been introduced.

Now this expertise will be available to breeders and owners of companion animals through the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory. Some examples of the available tests are listed below:

DNA, biochemical and immunologic tests

DNA tests

- phosphofructokinase deficiency • pyruvate kinase deficiency • severe combined immunodeficiency • globoid cell leukodystrophy • mucopolysaccharidosis • glycogenosis

Blood tests-blood typing

- erythrocyte assay • immune function tests • hemostatic tests

Urine tests

- cystinuria • mucopolysaccharidosis • Fanconi syndrome

The genetic testing laboratory is enhanced by a weekly Pediatrics and Genetics Clinic at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP) and the Canine Genetic Disease Information System (to be expanded to cats) to provide counseling and advice on the management of affected animals and on breeding companion animals free of genetic disease. The program will also allow for the investigation of the prevalence of certain genetic diseases and will aid in the identification of new hereditary diseases.

The Genetic Testing and Counseling Program will become a reliable resource at an affordable rate. It is a non-profit operation under the auspices of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, supported by donations and modest service fees.

The establishment of The Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory has been made possible by the generosity of many donors. 🏡🏡

